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here, a lawyer Ramsey Clark could observe our people's hospitality, familial harmony, optimism and confidence in the final victory of the struggle. He realized that the Vietnamese masses could distinguish the bellicose Nixon clique from the U.S. progressives who oppose Nixon's brutal war. Through the most commonplace people, he could see that our people's determination to fight and win would never change.

concluding his significant trip to Thanh Hoa Province where he witnessed Nixon's crimes against our people, lawyer Ramsey Clark said: [Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] My impressions on this trip are very strong and numerous and cannot be fully expressed. However, my most profound observation is that I have clearly seen the contrast between peace and war. Despite bombs and shells, the Vietnamese people have maintained their will and their beautiful way of life. Yesterday and this morning I visited Thieu Minh village, a beautiful village with 2,900 inhabitants which was built 500 years ago. We can see that this village has made progress in many aspects. The local people have confidence in themselves and are looking toward their objectives. Care has been given to the health of adults and children. They enjoy a healthy spiritual life and familial harmony. Agricultural production and education are developing. This has created a deep impression in my mind. In the ravaged areas, many persons have manifested the unsubmissive will of the Vietnamese people. No strength can subdue this will.

Visit to Thai Binh

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 5 Aug 72 B

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[For a VNA International Service English report on this visit see page K-1 of the 7 August DAILY REPORT]

[Text] [Announcer] A team of the International Commission for Inquiries Into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina has just toured Thai Binh, a rice rich province in North Vietnam's delta. Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and a member of the team, visited the Lan sluice, which was completely destroyed by U.S. bombs on July 29. The sluice is an important hydraulic work. Its construction began in 1961 and was completed in 1963 at a cost of 1 and a half million dong and millions of work days. The project [words indistinct] of paddy fields in the southern district of the province.

Lan sluice had been bombed and rocketed on July 19, 24, and 28 of this year but had been repaired. The last U.S. attack reduced it to rubble. Seeing the destruction, Ramsey Clark had this to say: [Follows male voice with American accent] "(?I see) the sluices are strategic in the utilization of water for tens of thousands of acres, and hundreds of thousands of people, and their livelihood depends on it, so it is obviously quite a critical target, and when you hit it, you endanger the lives of all those people and you destroy this good earth that, uhh, has given (?them livelihood). [Words indistinct] facility and, uhh, vital in the regulation of, umm, the water level on the tens of thousands of acres which support, uhh, hundreds of thousands of people. So, the jeopardy to their lives and livelihood is quite clear from hitting this target.

"We have recently had, uhh, some terrible floods in the United States, particularly in the northeastern part, where the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, Washington D.C., uhh, experienced, uhh, the most severe floods in many, many years, and of course there was the, uhh, tragedy and disaster in Rapid City, South Dakota, earlier in the year.

"So the American people know something about, umm, the human suffering and loss of life that can result, uhh, from flooding.

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But I think the--the risk of flooding to the people of, uhh, the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam is, uhh, is much more serious because the--the life of this country depends upon its--its ability to grow the foods that, uhh, require the very careful regulation of water levels. Particularly, uhh, with rice it's important that there be plenty of water, but, uhh, not be too much water, or there will be no rice crop, and, uhh, people will starve.

"So it's imperative that, uhh, the, uhh, people of this country, uhh, of North Vietnam be able to regulate, uhh, their water, and this requires a very intricate system of dikes, pumps, sluices, and dams. And if there's injury to this system, then the crops, uhh, will perish. This, uhh, this province of Thai Binh is, uhh, a rich agricultural area. The highest point in the whole province is only 2 meters above sea level, so you can see immediately that, uhh, not only will the food upon which life depends be lost if there is flooding here, but life itself will be lost immediately because, uhh, homes and, uhh, villages can be flooded. Therefore, attacks on the dikes, the sluices, and the pumping stations that are essential, uhh, are attacks on the very economic basis, on the very life, of this country, and they should never, never be done."

[Announcer] Ramsey Clark also visited the bomb damaged hospital for lepers and a secondary school in the province. He made these remarks: [Same American accented male voice] "This morning, Friday, August 4th, the first place we visited (?was) the small village of Phu Vang, (?where) two airplanes attacked on the 31st of July and dropped approximately 20 bombs in the area generally. Among the places damaged, there were, uhh, a hospital for lepers called (Le Phong), which is more than a hundred years old and which cares for a thousand people suffering from leprosy. The bombs that hit there killed three people and injured three, in addition doing great damage to the hospital facility itself.

"We also visited a secondary school which was, umm, had been quite an attractive building, uhh, only completed in 1966, and we visited there with six of the teachers. The bombs there injured the principal of the school as well as four of the teachers. But fortunately, the children were away on vacation, so no children were injured.

"It's not, umm, possible for me to make a final judgment as to what was intended by the pilot at that time. It would be necessary to first attain all possible evidence as to targets in the area, and perhaps, uhh, uhh, from the, uhh, Air Force of the United States there would be some statement as to what they claim they were trying to do here.

"But one thing is very clear, and that is that when military aircraft bomb a country, uhh, where there is no military engagement going on, where there is no actual battle being engaged in, they will inevitably, unnecessarily, uhh, kill innocent people, kill civilians, and destroy schools and hospitals, as we have seen this morning. And the lesson, of course, is that the bombing should be stopped immediately, should never have been done in the first place, and should never be done again."

[Announcer] The former U.S. attorney general said further about the U.S. attack on dikes: [Same American accented male voice] "We visited, uhh, one site yesterday, that uhh--where a dike had been, umm, bombed directly--(?I think) that a bomb had hit directly on the top of the dike and had torn, uhh, a large crater in the dike there and had done damage nearby. In fact, that bomb, uhh, killed a mother and her--and her daughters and left, uhh, husband without a wife and a son without a mother and sisters.

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